

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-13 and 15-22 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 11, and 15-18 are currently amended. Claims 1 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Amended Claim 5 is written in independent form including the features of base Claim 1. Amended Claim 18 is written in independent form including the features of base Claim 14. Support for amended Claims 2-4, 11, and 15-17 is self-evident. No new matter is introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 11, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshitari (JP 10-213213) in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,593). Claims 1-4, 11, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshitari in view of Van Den Bossche (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0121087). Claims 5-10, 12-13, and 18-22 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, Claims 5 and 18 are written in independent form including the features of respective base Claims 1 and 14. Further, Claims 2-4, 11, and 15-17 are amended to respectively depend from Claims 5 and 18. Moreover, the cited references do not suggest or disclose the features of independent amended Claims 5 and 18.

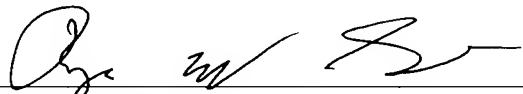
The dependent claims are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. Moreover, the dependent claims recite additional features not suggested or disclosed by the cited references.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 2-13 and 15-22 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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